

APR 03 2006

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT OPERATIONS

In re Application of:

COLIN A. ALDRIDGE ET AL.

Appln. No.: 10/796,617

Filed: March 9, 2004

Title: TORQUE ANCHOR

Confirmation No.: 1774

Group Art Unit: 3676

Examiner: Zakiya W. Bates

Atty Docket No. 141669.00004-P1274US00

Customer ID 25207

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

April 3, 2006

Commissioner of Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following is being submitted in response to the Office Action dated November 1, 2005 from Examiner Zakiya W. Bates of Art Unit 3676.

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Summary of Fees Submitted Herewith begins on Page 3.

Specification Amendments begins on page 4.

Claims Amendments begin on page 5.

Remarks begin on page 10.

Application No. 10/796,617
Amendment Dated April 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action Dated November 1, 2005

STATUS

The above-captioned patent application is pending.

Claims 4-10, 21 and 22 are objected to because of minor informalities.

Claims 1-7 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 6,318,459 or 6,062,309.

Claims 1-3, 11, 12, 20, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 6,155,346.

Claims 8-10, 13-19 and 21-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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SUMMARY OF USPTO FEES ENCLOSED HEREWITH

1. Extension of Time

A separate petition for an extension of time of two (2) months up to and including April 3, 2006, to respond to the outstanding Office Action, along with the appropriate fee for a small entity of \$225, is enclosed herewith.

2. No Excess Claims Fees

Claims fees for twenty-six (26) total claims and three (3) independent claims have been submitted. This response and amendment results in twenty-six (26) total claims three (3) independent claims. As such, no additional claims fee is due.